

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 30 – 39 and 43 – 57 are pending in the application

In addition to the comments previously provided in Applicants' amendment dated October 20, 2003, and entered with the RCE filed December 15, 2003, Applicants would like to point out the following.

In Applicants' apparatus for coating substrates, claim 30, (corresponding comments are applicable to method claim 51) there is provided, among other features, a cover 20 that is securable to the substrate holder 5 such that the cover is freely rotatable therewith. In view of this ability to secure the cover to the substrate holder, Applicants' coating apparatus does not require a second means for rotating the two components, since as defined in claim 30 the cover 20 is securable to the substrate holder 5. To further clarify this feature, claim 30 as amended provides for a single means for rotating both the substrate holder 5 and the cover 20. In contradistinction to Applicants' apparatus as defined in claim 30, the prior art requires two separate rotating means.

It is furthermore respectfully submitted that the prior art does not suggest Applicants' radially outwardly tapering notch 32.

Applicants respectfully submit that with the amendments to independent claims 30 and 51, all of the pending claims should now be allowable. However, should the Examiner still take issue with Applicants' position, the undersigned respectfully requests a telephone interview to discuss the prior art as well as any clarifying language that the

Examiner considers necessary for independent claims 30 and/or 51.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Becker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert W. Becker, Reg. No. 26,255
for applicant(s)

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